for a lottery of judicial positions every five years. Again another fearless judge, Hon. Pedro Concepcion, was found to test the constitutionality of the law The Supreme Court held the law invalid.[3]

The prompt administration of justice is another ideal which in the Philippines as elsewhere has been aimed at with varying degrees of success. Spanish procedure seemed skilfully adapted to attaining interminable delay. Since American occupation legal processes have been much hastened. Nevertheless, cases still proceed through months and years of trials, postponements, and appeals, to the dismay of litigants.

For some unexplained cause, the Province of Cavite has had the unfortunate honor of furnishing the worst examples of maladministration of justice. In 1888 one Juan de la Cruz, was charged with murder and lodged in the Cavite jail. Ten years later he was still there awaiting identification and trial. In 1920, one Ana Refresca, a young orphan girl, was abducted from her home in Calamba, Province of Laguna, and taken to Silang, Province of Cavite, where she was brutally raped. After an abortive start in the Laguna court the matter was permitted to lag. The offended girl petitioned the Governor-General and the Wood-Forbes Mission for protection. In 1922 new informations were presented in the Cavite Court. The trial dragged on for five years. During the trial one of the accused escaped and was later killed by the Philippine Constabulary. Finally, after eight years had elapsed, the remaining accused was convicted.[4]

The Cu Unjieng case, not of Cavite, is

believed to constitute some kind of a world record, certainly a Philippine record for judicial prolixity. The accused, Mariano Cu Unjieng, was a rich Chinese merchant of Manila. He was charged with the crimes of swindling and falsification to the grave financial prejudice of a foreign bank. The trial began

[8] Concepcion v. Parades (1921), 43 Phil. 599.
* People v. Manguiat and Sanqui (1928), 51 Phil. 406.